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## APPENDIX.

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## ADDRESS BY THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

Hon'ble Members of the Legislature.

I deem it a great privilege to address this Joint Session of the Legislature.

2. We meet at a time when the havoc caused by the cyclonic storm and tidal wave in Rameswaram Island and other parts of our eastern coast is still fresh in our minds. Apart from the heavy toll of human lives, nature's fury has caused loss of property on a large scale and rendered the township of Dhanushkodi uninhabitable. The destruction of the Pamban Bridge made it hazardous to rush relief to the stricken island surrounded on all sides by angry seas. Among the victims of this catastrophe, the most pitiable are the fishermen who, apart from being rendered homeless, have lost their boats and nets and with these their means of livelihood. In spite of the severance of all communications, the Government have done their very best to organise the rescue and relief of people marooned in the island. It is heartening to note the spontaneous response from people, rich and poor alike, from all parts of the State and even outside, including in particular U.S.A. and other friendly countries, in the form of contributions in cash and in kind for the relief of the distressed. Schemes—both short-term and long-term—for rehabilitation of the victims estimated to cost about Rs. 150 lakhs have been formulated and are being pushed through with the utmost vigour. The Honourable Members may rest assured that financial considerations will not deter the Government from doing all that is necessary for assuaging the sufferings of the people. The Central Government have also recognised the magnitude of the problem of relief and rehabilitation and we have reason to feel confident that assistance will be forthcoming from them in an adequate measure.

3. People all over the country should have felt considerably relieved that the cyclone has left untouched the famous temple at Rameswaram which has through the ages attracted devout pilgrims from all over the country and has been a sacred symbol of our national unity. The restoration of communications with Rameswaram Island for the convenience of this national pilgrim traffic, is therefore entitled to the highest priority. The Railways have moved with a commendable sense of urgency in the matter and have already initiated action for the reconstruction of the Pamban Bridge. Meanwhile, the State Government have arranged for the operation of a ferry service with a fleet of mechanical boats, so as to maintain uninterrupted movement of persons and goods to the island. From the long-term point of view, the proper protection of the temple and provision of an access to Sethu Theertham in Dhanushkodi are matters of national concern and the State Government will address themselves to these problems in collaboration with the Government of India.

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4. The severe damage to Dhanushkodi pier has made it necessary to develop a new township on the mainland for resuming the ferry service to Ceylon. The obvious location for this is the Sethusamudram Canal area and therefore the execution of this project has become specially urgent. There is broad agreement that the project, by providing a direct line of communication between the west and east coasts of India without having to circumnavigate Ceylon, would promote the general economy of the nation. The execution of this project will also be a logical sequel to the programme already under way for the development of Tuticorin as a deep water harbour. Sethusamudram Scheme by virtue of its nature and dimensions will be the responsibility of the Central Government who are now actively engaged in completing the technical scrutiny of the project. Meanwhile, the State Government propose to initiate advance action on the project by appointing administrative and technical staff for acquisition of lands, construction of buildings for offices and quarters and improvement of communications in the area. This project will not only provide opportunities for gainful employment to the victims of the recent cyclone, but will also quicken the pace of economic development of a backward region where many of the repatriates from Ceylon and Burma returning to their ancestral homes would seek resettlement.

5. The cyclone with all its havoc has however brought in its trail welcome rains in many parts of the State and has significantly improved the crop prospects for the current season. While there are areas in the southern districts with less than normal rainfall, seasonal conditions have by and large been fair and on current expectations the principal harvest now in progress should be a good one. The improvement now anticipated in the level of production of foodgrains should in its turn have a favourable impact on food supplies and prices.

6. As Honourable Members are aware, our State is in a normal year, marginally surplus in rice. But the comparatively large outward flow of rice under the stimulus of higher prices ruling outside the State and the suspension of normal trade in the wake of enforcement of price control, created a difficult situation in the City and other important Urban Centres towards the end of September. The Government therefore had to step in with direct procurement of short-term crop then coming into the market and organize supplies through Co-operative and other licensed shops. The Collectors and their staff responded in a gratifying manner to the challenge posed by this difficult situation and the energetic measures taken both for procurement of stocks and their movement to areas in short supply under the direct supervision and guidance of senior officers deputed by the Government, helped in bringing the situation quickly under control. These measures and the introduction of family card system have brought about a visible improvement in the distribution of foodgrains at regulated prices to vulnerable sections of our population.



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7. Keeping in view the need to ensure adequate supplies at reasonable prices, the Government have evolved their policy in regard to procurement of long-term crop of the current season. The most effective means of regulating the market in foodgrains will be to build up a buffer stock of about 4 lakhs of tonnes of rice, so that orderly releases from these stocks would have a steadying effect on the flow of stocks at regulated prices. The bulk of this quantity, about 2 to 2½ lakhs of tonnes, will have to be secured from the Cauvery Delta in the districts of Thanjavur, Tiruchirappalli and South Arcot and the balance from other districts. This operation which would cover less than a third of the marketable surplus is indeed not intended to displace private trade altogether. The Government's aim is to ensure a position of vantage from which trade could be regulated more effectively. The buffer stocks will be built up by a levy from the millers and direct purchase from the producers on a suitably graded scale so as not to cause hardship particularly to the small producers. Towards this programme of building up the buffer stock, Co-operatives in each District will be utilised to the maximum possible extent. For the rest, wholesalers will be selected taking into account the storage capacity available with them, the volume of their past trade, their financial standing and, above all, their reputation for integrity. The area of operation of each agent will be suitably demarcated with targets of purchase on Government account. To facilitate this operation, movement of foodgrains on private account will be suitably regulated. We may however have to follow a modified policy in regard to Kanyakumari district, which has a long open border with the Kerala State, rendering prevention of movement of grains across the border difficult. The Government have decided that there should be procurement of the entire surplus available in the Kanyakumari district and that consequently the needs of the people of this district should be met in full by Government on the basis of an adequate ration.

8. As Honourable Members are aware, a Foodgrains Corporation has been set up by the Government of India and has just started functioning with its headquarters in Madras. We may expect this Corporation to assume increasingly direct responsibility for procurement of foodgrains for building up buffer stocks and for meeting the needs of the people. It will obviously take some time for the Corporation to build up its organization and play the part expected of it. It has therefore been decided that for the current season, apart from any compact area where the Foodgrains Corporation may like to function direct, the State Government should themselves procure in the rest of the State. The Corporation should hold the stocks procured in proper storage as the agent of this Government. Subject to commitments negotiated with the Government of India for meeting the needs of other deficit States, the release of stocks held by the Corporation in the State should be according to the advices of the State Government.

9. As an important aspect of our policy of building up buffer stocks, we have embarked on a programme of construction of

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storage capacity in the public sector. It is expected that by the end of March an additional storage capacity of the order of two lakhs of tonnes will become available.

10. While taking these measures, essentially of a regulatory nature, in assuring supplies of foodgrains at prices fair alike to the producer and consumer, the Government are redoubling their efforts for augmenting production of foodgrains as well as of subsidiary foods like fish, milk and vegetables. The consumption of fertilisers is picking up again and is expected to reach a level of about 3.25 lakhs tonnes in terms of Ammonium Sulphate in the current year. Given favourable seasonal conditions and assured supplies of fertilisers, attainment of targets of additional production for the current Plan should not be too difficult. A new strain of short-term paddy, capable of withstanding heavy dosage of chemical manures, has been evolved and the spread of this variety should assist significantly in stepping up production. The pace of execution of various minor and medium irrigation schemes has been stepped up and the Supplementary Estimates which the House will be considering in the current session will fully reflect this increased tempo in agricultural and allied sectors.

11. The implementation of other schemes included in the Plan has also been equally satisfactory and it is now anticipated that as against the budgeted outlay of Rs. 70.53 crores, the actual outlay on Plan in the current year will be over Rs. 77 crores. The Planning Commission has on a realistic basis fixed the outlay for the next year at about Rs. 78 crores. But the chances are that as in previous years our final performance will appreciably be in excess of this provision. On current anticipations, the outlay on Third Plan would aggregate to nearly Rs. 340 crores thereby exceeding the original provision by Rs. 50 crores. The Planning Commission which recently made an assessment of the progress of the Plan in this State has considered our performance to be most impressive in terms both of expenditure and achievement of targets. There has been a balanced development of all key sectors of growth, like agriculture, power, industry and transport and the State is well-poised for the considerably enlarged developmental effort visualised for the Fourth Plan. The several Working Groups set up for the drawing up of the Fourth Plan have completed their study of the techno-administrative aspects of the programmes to be included in the Fourth Plan. The Government will soon finalise their draft proposals for the Fourth Plan on the basis of these studies and the House will have an opportunity of discussing them in the current session.

12. The impressive performance of the State in the fulfilment of the Plan has in no small measure been due to the fact that the Honourable Members have given the Government their unstinted co-operation and generally viewed all programmes of development as beyond the pale of political controversy. Differences in accent are inevitable and perhaps necessary in a healthy democracy; but there should be broad agreement and co-operation on the common tasks. I plead and pray for the continuance of this spirit of co-operation and understanding.



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13. The legislative programme for this session is not heavy. To finance the procurement operations undertaken since October, an Ordinance had to be promulgated raising the corpus of the Contingency Funds from Rs. 1.5 crores to Rs. 5 crores. A Bill for replacing this Ordinance by an Act of the Legislature will be coming up for consideration in the current session. The Madras Cultivating Tenants' Protection Act, 1955 (Madras Act XXV of 1955) is due to expire on 27th September 1965. The Government have decided to place the Act on a permanent basis. A Bill for this purpose will also be introduced in the current session of the Legislature. The Madras Preservation of Private Forests (Amendment) Bill, 1964 which had been passed by the Legislative Assembly in its last session will now go before the Legislative Council for consideration.

14. The main business of the current session will be the consideration of Supplementary Estimates for the current year and the Budget Estimates for the next. I have no doubt that you will carry on your deliberations with that sense of restraint and decorum for which this Legislature is justly renowned.

